

## Office Commissary of Musters,

21st ARMY CORPS.

Demlap Tenn Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 1863.

My Dear Barrett.

So you see I am in  
"East Tennessee" at last. For we are  
fairly over the Cumberland Range and  
in the Sequatchie Valley.

Our move from Murfreesboro  
proved as you know a success, though  
the mud and rain prevented its being  
such a success as we wished and  
hoped, the capture of Braggs Army.  
But we drove the enemy from Middle  
Tennessee at an expense of some 250  
lives on our side, injured his morale  
got the wheat he had cut for  
his own use, cheered the loyal at  
home, encouraged our own soldiers  
and I think caused Bragg as large a  
loss as if we had fought a pitched  
battle. For while we lay in camp  
after the evacuation of Tullahoma, our  
line reaching from Winchester to Fayette.

R. D. Murray.  
Aug. 30, 1863.

vill on the right (we dashed into  
Huntsville Ala once or twice but  
did not stay permanently) to Mc  
Minnville on the left, there must  
have come into our lines from 3000  
to 5000 deserters. & more than that num-  
ber of citizens took the Oath of Allegiance  
or the Non-combatants' Parole.

Gen Van Cleve with the 3<sup>d</sup> Division of  
this Corps occupied Mc Minnville. There  
is a direct road from Chattanooga  
to that place and he administered  
the Oath of Allegiance to over 1,700  
Deserters. Perhaps in the other two Div-  
isions of the Corps some 800 more  
Deserters were sworn.

From the positions we then occu-  
pied to those we now hold from  
Huntsville to Pikeville Tenn our Army  
was transferred without the loss of  
a life - that I have heard of. The  
movement was finely planned and  
executed. Our Corps commenced moving  
two weeks ago today. <sup>by the next</sup> Wednesday night

it was in this Valley having travelled  
over 30 miles, including the ascent  
and descent of the Cumberland Mountains  
Thursday morning part of our forces  
moved to the front where they still  
watch Chattanooga and the Ferris for  
several miles above it. Burnside is  
now on our left and very possibly  
before this can reach you we shall  
have made another step in advance.

Gen Rosecrans I think aims at  
bringing Tennessee back into the Union  
as the first returning Rebel State. He  
is gradually transferring - as is also  
Gov Johnson - the government from  
Military to Civil (loyal) hands. Recent  
orders promise protection and indemnity  
to such Deserters from the Rebel ranks  
as will leave their Army come  
here take the Oath and live as  
loyal Citizens. Not a day passes that  
they do not come in. At some points  
on the Tennessee River desertions became  
so numerous from the Rebels that they

have abandoned the posts and have drawn their forces together about Chattanooga.

I think, from all I can learn, that they will give us a hard fight at that point. Deserters say that Bragg can not retreat from Chattanooga to Atlanta Ga. and carry his army with him.

I have written so fully - I fear tediously - about the position. I have little space to tell you how heartily I regret that you did not visit us at Murfreesboro. Though I am glad that you saw our Vicksburgh Army and Hayes. Did you see Force? He commands a Brigade they tell me.

I think so often of those delightful Club nights and later of our talks in Washington and that memorable visit of ours to Alexandria - What our Country has gone through since then of struggle and suffering - of chastening, of schooling in the lessons of the Universe, of development and growth into Nationality! I thank God

Barrett  
Aug 30 1863  
that I have been permitted to see this  
and to take some small (very small)  
part in it.

"The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places  
Were I to choose ~~what~~ an age and a  
country of all the ages and countries of  
human history to live in this would be  
my choice. For I do not think there  
was ever so grand a conflict between  
humanity and civilization and Christo-  
anity - and their "fog and magog" of  
opponents as this. Surely there never  
was so grand a spectacle of patriotism,  
loyalty to the flag and, back of the flag,  
loyalty to God's ideas as this. How under  
all defeat, disaster, rebuffs has the  
popular heart beaten true to the cause  
of humanity and Christianity. "God is  
"on our side and we must conquer",  
has been ~~the~~ so universal a feeling - that  
I doubt whether the banner they gave  
Constantine to have received from above  
was not our own Stars & Stripes.

My dear Barrett - Pardon me I have

not attempted fine writing - but this clear  
still Sunday evening my head is completely  
whelmed with the strong spring tide of my  
heart. I cant help thinking of the grandeur  
of our struggle - and feeling so thankful  
that I can share in it. But I know I  
cant express my feelings - and my attempts  
are what Carlyle would call "dumb and  
"inarticulate"

Do remember me very kindly to any of  
my friends in Washington - in the Pension Office  
if any remain - and elsewhere.

Remember me if you will very kindly  
to Mrs Barrett.

I should be very much pleased to hear  
from you - and will try to answer any  
future favor with a more interesting letter  
than this

Very Truly Your Friend  
R Delavan Mussey